

organization now provides meals five days a week from two different sites. It also maintains a food pantry which distributes over 325 food boxes each month to area families. Medical attention and emergency shelters are also made available by the group. The Samaritan House offers free tutoring and legal services, as well as clothing and furniture. This type of service, which is urgently needed in our community, has been generously provided by the Samaritan House.

Over 1,200 volunteers work with Samaritan House, and these generous people share their means and contribute their time and effort to assist those in need. They promote self-sufficiency and preserve the dignity and worth of those they help. It is my desire that my Colleagues in the Congress not only pay tribute to Samaritan House but that—in recognition of the quarter century of humanitarian achievement of Samaritan House—we renew our own personal commitment to assist those who are in need.

Mr. Speaker, Samaritan House is an inspiring organization. It has helped people who are in need not only with immediate care and the necessities of life, but it has also helped to provide longer-term help so that people are able to stabilize their lives and move on to self-sufficiency. I am extremely grateful for the caring men, women, and children who have dedicated time and energy to this endeavor. I invite my colleagues to join me in expressing our sincere appreciation and congratulating Samaritan House on its twenty-fifth anniversary.

HONORING WILLIAM E. CHALTRAW

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 1999

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor William E. Chaltraw for his commitment to the Fresno community and his dedication for his countless hours of volunteer work.

William E. Chaltraw, owner of Chaltraw & Associates, has 23 years of experience as a certified public accountant. His associates include his daughter Kristen, also a certified public accountant, and his wife Agnes, office manager of the family-owned business.

Chaltraw moved to Fresno with his parental family in 1963 from Detroit, Mich. He later graduated summa cum laude from CSUF in 1976 and spent most of his years as a partner at Deloitte & Touche before hanging out a shingle bearing his family name. He also taught individual, partnership and corporate taxation at his alma mater for more than four years.

Chaltraw is a man who seems to consistently take on additional responsibilities. Right now, he is the chairman of Community Medical Foundation's board of trustees and a member of Community Medical Center's corporate affairs committee. As chairman, Chaltraw's duties include overseeing the board's activities, meeting with corporate officers and volunteers and directing the goals the foundation has set.

Community certainly isn't Chaltraw first experience with nonprofit organizations. His experience includes serving as president of the Fresno Metropolitan Rotary Club, past presi-

dent of the Rotary Storyland/Playland board of trustees, and chairman of the taxation committee for the Fresno chapter of the California Society of Certified Public Accountants. He also serves as treasurer for the Bulldog foundation and set to be president of the foundation in the near future.

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to honor William E. Chaltraw for his extraordinary leadership among local business and community activities. He has provided Fresno community with many years of outstanding commitment and handwork. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing Chaltraw many more years of continued success.

NATIONAL MONUMENT NEPA COMPLIANCE ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 24, 1999

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, since I was elected to Congress, I have been focusing on the issue of livable communities and how we can create better partnerships between the Federal Government, State and local governments and our citizens. As amended this bill will increase input from local communities while preserving important national landmarks.

The 1906 Antiquities Act has served our nation well for almost a century. It has led to the preservation of the Grand Canyon, Death Valley, and Grand Teton National Parks. These sites have great environmental importance, they add to our nation's heritage, and through tourism they are an important part of local economies. This legislation would ensure that the President continues to have the authority to designate monuments, while giving communities a larger voice in the process. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1487, the Public Participation in the Declaration of National Monuments Act.

HONORING EFFORTS TO PRESERVE THE SAN JACINTO BATTLEGROUND STATE HISTORICAL PARK

HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 1999

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the people and the spirit behind efforts to restore and maintain San Jacinto Battleground State Historical Park in the 25th Congressional District. This weekend I will have the honor to join members of the Harris County State Legislative Delegation and other members of the Texas Legislature, including the Speaker of the Texas House of Representatives James E. "Pete" Laney as they tour the battleground site including a boat ride down Buffalo Bayou and the Houston Ship Channel to its confluence with the San Jacinto River where the Battle of San Jacinto took place on April 21, 1836. This site, now State Park and monument along with the San Jacinto Museum of History, is where the Army of the Republic of

Texas, under the command of General Sam Houston, surprised and overwhelmed the Mexican Army and forced the surrender by its General Santa Anna leading to the establishment of the Republic of Texas and, nine years later, its entry into the United States.

In Texas, we believe in honoring our ancestors and preserving history for future generations. That's why the old-fashioned boat ride and picnic symbolizes more than a pleasant outing. It is a reenactment of boat trips from a century ago, when the San Jacinto Chapter of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas hosted trips in the 1980s to attempt to persuade State Legislators to purchase and preserve land around the Battleground.

The Battleground and surrounding land, now totaling more than 1000 acres, has long been considered a historical treasure by Texas residents, and was dedicated as a State Park in 1907, eventually receiving designation as a National Historic Landmark. In 1939, work was completed on the towering 567-foot San Jacinto Monument. Designated as a National Engineering Landmark, the Monument rises 12 feet higher than the Washington Monument and is the world's tallest monument column. The Museum which is housed in the base of the Monument opened in 1939 and holds hundreds of thousands of artifacts relating to Texas as a part of Spain, Mexico, the Republic of Texas, and early Statehood. Operating in a public/private partnership, the Park is administered by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department; and the San Jacinto Museum of History, a nonprofit educational organization, operates the Museum.

The goal of the individuals currently working to preserve San Jacinto State Park, the Battleground, the Monument, and the Museum is just as compelling and challenging today as it was a hundred years ago. This weekend the Trustees of San Jacinto State Park and Museum will do more than launch a boat trip; they will launch the beginning of the effort to return much of the Battleground to its natural appearance at the time of the 1836 battle and to transform the site into a world-class interpretive center and museum. The New Master Plan for the San Jacinto Battleground State Park, which will be outlined for the public and legislators, will eliminate some of the modern additions to the site that lessen the impact of experience for the 1.5 million people who visit the site annually. Restoring the site to its original and natural state will serve to create a better understanding of the sacrifices of those who fought there and the extraordinary historical significance of the battle itself.

Today it is very difficult for visitors to traverse the site and understand the Battle because of so many changes to the Battleground. Since its original designation as a Park, the Battleground has been partially obscured by buildings and monuments; by disposition of dredging soil; by landscaping; by construction of roads, picnic pads and other structures; and by subsidence ranging from eight to ten feet. Interpretation of the Battle is further complicated by the presence of the Battleship of Texas and its parking and support facilities. The main goals of the San Jacinto Battleground State Historical Park Master Plan is to give primary emphasis to the Battle and its physical setting in order to enhance interpretation and the visitor experience. After all, the site's national significance